(d) whether the Ministry of Tourism will also aid the Ministry in giving strategic push to Indian health-care sector in foreign markets?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR:ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have not constituted any task force comprising experts from the Ministries of Health and Family Welfare, Tourism, Railways, External Affairs, Civil Aviation and Director General of Health Services to suggest strengthening the policy measures and norms for National Accreditation Board to provide accreditation to private hospitals.

The Central Government is examining the possibility of a regulation for hospitals, nursing homes and other clinical establishments to ensure quality health care services including norms for assessment, accreditation, inspection, certification, regulation of such clinical establishment as well as maintenance of records.

A new visa category *i.e.* 'Medical Visa' to facilitate foreign nationals, who wish to utilize specialized medical health care facilities to come to India for medical treatment, has been introduced by the Ministry of Home Affairs. This decision has been communicated to all Indian Missions and Posts abroad.

The Ministry of Tourism is interested in promoting Medical Tourism given the comparative advantages, which India has in terms of cost, internationally renowned doctors and hospitals and the diversity of tourist destinations available in the country. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is working in close coordination with the Ministry of Tourism to give a strategic push to open the healthcare sector to foreign tourists.

Passenger-upgrade Scheme

*47. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the free passenger-upgrade scheme announced recently by Railways is operational;

(b) if so, the total amount saved, so far, by Railways on account of not having to refund money for waitlisted tickets;

(b) and (c) The Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) approved a rehabilitation scheme for IISCO in November, 2003. The scheme approved the closure of Kulti Works as it was found to be economically unviable. The operation of Kulti Works was closed with effect from 1st April, 2003 and there is no plan for its revival.

Meanwhile, under the Corporate Plan-2012 for IISCO, Burnpur works will be upgraded to produce 2 million tonnes per year (MTPY) of crude steel in 2011-2012, from a level of 0.35 million tonne (MT) in 2004-05. The plan also envisages development of collieries to enhance coking coal production to 1 MTPY. Chiria Iron Ore Mines will be developed to produce 7 MTPY of iron ore. Total investment considered for implementing the corporate plan is Rs.8,017 crore.

For optimum utilisation of raw material resources of IISCO and harnessing the synergies between IISCO and SAIL, Government has accorded approval to merge IISCO with SAIL.

National Accreditation Board

*46. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced formation of a task force comprising experts from the Ministries of Health and Family Welfare, Tourism, Railways, External Affairs, Civil Aviation and Director General of Health Services to suggest strengthening the policy measures and norms for National Accreditation Board to provide accreditation to private hospitals;

(b) whether Government will also come out with Clinical Establishment Act;

(c) whether Government have also announced that policy decision for granting of medical visa will also be considered; and